

***Apion brunnipes* Boh. (Col.: Apionidae) in Dorset**

I find that one specimen in my series of *Apion (Taphrotopium) brunnipes* Boh, is labelled "Cranborne 18.vii.37. P.H." This north-east Dorset locality was one of Philip Harwood's occasional collecting-grounds. *A. brunnipes* is an extremely local species, living on *Filago* and *Gnaphalium*, for which Morris (1990. *Handbk. ident. Br. Insects*, 5:16) lists the British records as from North Devon, West Kent, Berkshire and East and West Suffolk only. In the sandy area of Tubney, Berkshire (near Oxford) it used to occur in some numbers to J. J. Walker and others in the first decade or two of the last century.— A. A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

***Apion semivittatum* Gyllenhal (Col.: Brentidae) in South Wiltshire**

Whilst staying with relations in Salisbury (grid reference SU 1231) in August 1987 I noticed small feeding holes in the leaves of young plants of *Mercurialis annua* growing in a narrow cultivated strip under their front window. Anticipating that these might be caused by the very locally distributed *Apion semivittatum*, I kept an eye on the patch and over the next few weeks I recorded over a dozen examples of the weevil. Morris (1990, *Handbk. Ident. Br. Insects*, 5, part 16: 41) reports the beetle from East and West Kent, East Sussex, South Essex and Wiltshire – the latter county being included, as far as I am aware, on the basis of the record presented here which was communicated to Dr Morris.— DAVID R. NASH, 3 Church Lane, Brantham, Suffolk CO11 1PU.

A curious colour-variety of *Quedius curtipennis* Bernh. (Col.: Staphylinidae)

A rather large female of this common, black *Quedius*, taken by Mr K. C. Lewis at Chalk Wood, Bexley, West Kent on 10 July 1989, proved to be abnormal in one very unusual respect. The whole of the epipleurs, or turned-down lateral edges of the elytra, are very distinctly and sharply reddish-yellow; the colour is narrowly visible from above at the shoulders. In normal specimens, these parts are concolorous with the rest of the body. No such variation in either this or the allied species appears to be mentioned in any of the works that I have seen. - A. A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

The juniper mirid *Dichrooscytus gustavi* Josifov (Hem.: Miridae) found on cypress

On 24 June 1999, I knocked several specimens of a small brightly coloured mirid bug from a row of four-metre-high cypresses, bordering the car park just north of Chalfont and Latimer railway station, Buckinghamshire (grid reference SU 996976). The trees were probably the ubiquitous garden scourge *Cupressocyparis leylandii* (Jackson & Dallimore). Later, with the help of Mr P. J. Hodge, the bugs were quickly determined as *Dichrooscytus gustavi*, formerly *D. valesianus* (Meyer-Dür). This very local bug, accorded nationally scarce (Notable B) status by Kirby (1992; *A review of the scarce and threatened Hemiptera of Great Britain*), was previously known only from junipers, and at the time of Kirby's review was